

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Rumania.

**SUBJECT**

## Religion in Rumanian Schools

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Communist effort to destroy religion continues in Rumania, the usual method being mockery rather than direct attack. A special effort is made to get rid of the Bible, referred to as "that myth". Every professor or schoolmaster is required to discuss anti-religious ideology with his students, no matter what subject he happens to be teaching. There are special anti-religious courses in pedagogy to show teachers how to handle these subjects in the classroom. Students who have not learned their lessons now find it easy to escape penalties by hastily asking a question about anti-religion.
2. Every classroom has what is called a "Red Corner". In this there are maps of the USSR and Rumania and photographs of Soviet pioneer leaders. Above all is displayed the flag of the USSR. The names of holidays have also been changed; Christmas is now the "Winter Vacation", and Easter is "Spring Vacation".
3. None of the popular religious songs and no hymns are sung in any Rumanian schools. Parents who try to teach religious music to their children run grave risks. If the children forget and hum the tunes outside the home, the parents are immediately detected and accused of trying to sabotage the schools.
4. One of the most active anti-religious organizations is the "Societatea Pentru Raspiandirea Stiintei si Culturii" (Society for the Diffusion of Science and Culture). This attacks all forms of mysticism and "religious superstition". It is aided by the Academy, which provides all sorts of "scientific and historical" data to prove the materialistic conception of history and man. The society has 82 groups (described as "groups of lecturers") and maintains 102 centers for anti-religious lectures. During the last twelve months there have been 11,000,000 admissions to these affairs. The society has distributed 35,000 pieces of propaganda.

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- 2 -

5. The Communist Party held a Teachers' Congress of the Rumanian Peoples Republic (RPR) from 10 to 13 April 1952. It considered such questions as:
  - a. Improvement of teaching, in view of modern Soviet scientific methods.
  - b. Strengthening of activist-ideological work among Rumanian teachers including the "liquidation" of the regressive forces in some sections of the teaching staff.
  - c. Putting to work teachers who are conscious of socialism, so that they may train the people to combat the enemies of the regime.
6. Instructors are expected to refuse to be called "Domnule" (sir) or "Doamna" (madam), but should insist on being called "Tovarashe Invatator" (comrade teacher).

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